

The Progressive Farmer.

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Raleigh, N. C.

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RALEIGH, N. C., JUNE 30, 1887.

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ENDORSED BY THE CONVENTION.

The following resolution was passed by the Farmers' Mass Convention in Raleigh, January 26th, 1887:

Resolved, That THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, published by L. L. Polk, Winston, N. C., be declared the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' Association, and that its Editor, L. L. Polk, be admitted to the privileges of the floor as an honorary member of this Convention.

We ask every Grange and Farmers' Club in the State to send us at once, the number of members in the organization, together with the name and post-office address of each officer.

PLEASE NOTICE.

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

SUBSCRIBERS, READ THIS.

Is there a Cross Mark on the margin of your paper? We adopt this as the simplest and easiest method of informing our patrons that their terms of subscription have expired, and that the paper will be stopped if we do not hear from you. We know "times are hard" on everybody, and especially is this true of newspapers, and particularly agricultural papers. But we must help each other as best we can. If, therefore, you are not prepared to renew for the whole year, renew for a part of the time, and this will enable you to have time to make us up a club, for which you will get the paper one year free of charge. So if you see the Cross Mark, let us hear from you.

A SERIES OF PAPERS

On Genuine Agricultural Colleges.

We are very glad to be able to announce to our readers that we have perfected arrangements for a series of articles descriptive of the aims, work and benefits of some of the best agricultural colleges of the country, written by eminent persons upon the grounds, and in some cases by their professors or officers. We have put forth special efforts to secure these papers from the highest sources and the information they convey may be relied upon as accurate and brought down to the latest date.

This information will be very valuable to us just at this time, when we are organizing our college. We invite the attention of all interested in our North Carolina College to them. This week we begin the series by giving the able report of Mr. W. S. Primrose, on the agricultural colleges visited by his committee. The next paper will be on the Massachusetts Agricultural College, at Amherst. It is from Mr. Herbert Myricke, a graduate of that institution, a great friend of agricultural education and the editor of the *Farm and Home*, of Springfield, Mass. We will then have a letter on the Mississippi Agricultural College, prepared especially for us, by Prof. Geo. A. Myers, Professor of Agricultural Chemistry in that institution.

Other equally interesting papers will follow each week thereafter for a month or more.

WHERE IS YOUR BOY?

There is a difference between the town or city-boy and the country boy, but the difference is chiefly in the temptations and opportunities which lie before them. We frequently see little urchins and "fourteen-year-old young gentlemen," in out of the way places, smoking cigarettes. We wonder if the parent is aware of it. This is bad enough. It is as bad, if not worse than whiskey drinking about which there is so much excitement in the land. But we are told now that some of the manufacturers are not content with impairing or ruining the health of the boys, but that they are guilty of the enormous crime of undermining and ruining the morals of these precious boys for the sake of their nickles. It is said that vulgar and obscene pictures are put in each package of cigarettes, to induce them to buy. Is this true? We cannot doubt it. We ask the fathers and mothers of the land to go to the authorities and have it suppressed.

It is a grave and serious matter. See that your boys do not smoke. It is a habit that is growing with fearful rapidity among them. Watch them and if need be use the rod and use it vigorously. Our fathers and mothers should demand the enactment of such laws as will protect the boys of the land, from physical and moral ruin.

Where is your boy?

THE HOMESTEAD.

Mortgages and Leins.

The writer is thoroughly convinced of the absolute necessity for a modification of the Homestead law. We believe that no law on our books has wrought more damage and mischief to the great mass of our people, and especially to that very class for whose peculiar protection and benefit it was adopted. It has utterly destroyed the poor man's credit and it hangs with deadly weight on his energies and makes him a slave to other men. The chattel mortgage and the crop lien laws, are the horribly wicked children of this prolific mother of many evils. They must be done away with and the homestead law must be modified—we do not say repealed—but modified. We do not propose to repeat now the views so often expressed in this paper, and otherwise publicly, on this subject, but we have penned these lines to ask our readers in all sections to write their views on this subject. Should our Homestead laws be modified? What say you? Give us your views briefly and pointedly.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

An admirably written article on their subject appears in the *News and Observer* of the 28th inst, in which the writer shows that the system of education as propagated in our literary institutions, tends to make professional men of our boys, and keeps them away from farm life. He says:

"The noble work of our existing colleges is fully appreciated. Their value to the commonwealth as the conservators of knowledge, their indirect blessings to the whole people, rich and poor, of all callings and professions, is recognized. They do their work well, but there is an educational work and a work of training, that the State needs sadly to have done, which they cannot do.

In these days of rapid progress and of intense competition, can a people, of whom two thirds are farmers, afford to neglect farming as a profession in all their schools? Is it fair to our educated boys to offer them no alternative but law or medicine, or the ministry, or teaching, &c., or other of the professions, when experience shows that two-thirds of them must go to mother earth for a living in a few years? Our languishing agriculture demands trained, skilled followers. The producing, or industrial arts must be studied by us. They must then have their schools."

We want our young men to be useful, intelligent, progressive farmers,

who will stay on the farm because they love it. But how are we to expect this, if both our educational and Industrial systems tend to drive him away from the farm? Give us a college where the poor young men of the State, can go and learn how to work and be proud of it. Our people are beginning to look into this important subject. There is a demand among them for information as to how we shall educate and train the poor young men of the State, and prepare them to be useful citizens. We hope to supply that information in some measure and we advise our readers to begin by reading carefully the very able and intelligent report of that staunch friend of Agricultural Education, Mr. W. S. Primrose, in this issue.

THE INTER-STATES CONVENTION AT ATLANTA.

We publish elsewhere a list of the delegates, thus far appointed, to represent North Carolina in the great Farmers' Convention at Atlanta on the 16th of August. The indications are that our State will be well represented. Information from the Executive Committee at Atlanta is to the effect that each of the ten States will be largely represented. We hope that many of our progressive farmers who cannot be appointed under the call will go. It will be the largest and most important convention of farmers ever assembled in this country. The great work that will engage its attention will be to ascertain the true causes of agricultural depression in the cotton States and to find a remedy—a work that should enlist the best effort and the most patriotic service of the best and most patriotic men of the South. It is the great opportunity for the farmers of the South to accomplish great things for themselves, for their children and their country. We will publish the programme of the convention and the rates on the railroads as soon as received.

OUR STATE FAIR.

Will be held at Raleigh Oct. 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st, 1887. Secretary Nichols has issued a neat Premium list of 60 pages, that shows discretion and good sense in the selection of exhibits to be awarded the premiums. The premiums aggregate over \$4,000 in cash. Write to him for a copy which will be mailed to you, post paid, and see if you should not make an effort to get some of this pile of cash.

First class men have been selected to take charge of each department, and every arrangement made for exhibitors to have a fair showing and for the visitors to have a good time. There are 40,000 farmers in our State who would be greatly benefitted by just one trip to our State Fair. Get ready and come to the
BIG FAIR OF 1887.

LET THEM ORGANIZE.

OAKS, June 24, 1887.
The Executive Committee of the Farmers' Association have called upon the farmers to organize in their respective counties and townships. Let them organize. Organization is the sure means of success. "An army without organization would soon be routed. A political party without organization would meet only defeat and disaster. Since the time when Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens, no great enterprise has ever been accomplished by large numbers of men except by organized effort. We have only to look at what the Young Men's Christian Association has done, at what the different branches of the Christian Church have done and are doing, at what the Sabbath schools and other educational and charitable organizations are doing, to become convinced that there is power in organization.

The farmers are surrounded by organizations. They live and move in the midst of them. It is singular that they alone should not organize. Let them organize.

ORANGE.

SENSIBLE AND PATRIOTIC VIEWS.

Taxes Do Not Create Wealth.

From the way they act, we cannot afford to ignore the fact that there are some men even in this age of philosophical speculation and practical knowledge—who occupy front ranks in politics, as well as some who hold positions of public trust in our own country, who are seriously contending that the government can make its citizens rich and prosperous by taxing them.

They increase the valuation of our lands because we clean up a little and sow some grass and clover. If we buy any labor-saving machinery, they tax us for the privilege of riding on them, and they tax our lands higher because we clear it of stumps and rocks.

All taxation, whether it be direct or indirect, and no matter how it may be disguised, or in what manner its payment may be enforced, is ultimately a charge upon labor, while its immediate and invariable effect is to withdraw the full amount of the exaction from the productive industries of the people. When it is equitably imposed for public purposes only, and its proceeds are honestly used in defraying the necessary expenses of the government, and meeting its just obligations, all are equally benefited, and no one has a right to complain; but when a tax is imposed upon one part of the people, or one class of industries simply for the purpose of increasing the profits of another part of the people, or another class of industries the impolicy and injustice of the proceeding are too obvious to require comment. Many valuable industries which would have flourished without it, have been tortured to death by its unequal burdens and unjust discrimination, while others have been crushed by the powerful combinations, and monopolies which it creates and sustains. Some have prospered in spite of it, but the sum of the people's wealth, the aggregate accumulation of savings in all branches of industry is undoubtedly much less than it ought to have been and would have been under a more equal revenue system. A few have become very rich, but many have become very poor, and the gulf between luxury and penury is growing wider and deeper every day.

This unnatural and dangerous condition of affairs could not possibly exist in a young and rapidly developing country like ours if the laws and regulations affecting the creation and distribution of wealth were just and equal in their operations. With a fertile soil and a friendly climate, with free institutions, an intelligent, industrious and enterprising population, we ought to be exempt from the social and political diseases which afflict the crowded nations of the old world, and we will be exempt from them when we tax all alike and protect all alike. Living in such a country, and surrounded by the marvelous achievements of the most wonderful half century in the annals of the human race, if the people continue unprosperous and discontented, if wealth continues to accumulate rapidly in the hands of the idle few, while hunger and nakedness increase in the homes of industry, and if invested capital remains uneasy and insecure, and labor dissatisfied, it will be a burning disgrace to the statesmanship of the age, and a terrible weight of responsibility will rest upon those who reject all means of relief and cling with stubborn tenacity to the worst features of the system under which these evils have originated and attained

THEIR PRESENT PROPORTIONS.

This country does not belong to either the monopolist or the communists, and the people will save it from both.

Between the two there stands a great and powerful body of enlightened, conservative, and patriotic farmers, who respect equally the rights of capital and labor, who obey the laws and preserve the public peace, and who in spite of all combinations and conspiracies, will ultimately see that the true principles of justice and equality prevail in the legislation of the country. Even to prevent the continuance of long-existing and constantly increasing evils they will not rush from one extreme to another, but will proceed carefully, deliberately and resolutely to correct inequalities, remove unnecessary burdens and open the paths that lead to peace and prosperity.

It is upon the shoulders and strong arm of the farmer that the genuine prosperity of this country depends, though the extreme and consuming

selfishness of some engaged in other callings do not seem to realize, or appreciate this important fact. If we permit systems to exist that crush out the industry that keeps us and clothes us, and brings us as a nation our chief wealth, we are simply undermining the safety of every existing fortune and paving the way to prevent the future accumulation of wealth.

With the history of the world before us and the skeletons of ruined nations always staring at us, it is not only folly but a crime against ourselves for any man or business to war against the prosperity of all.

Rome did just what is being attempted in this country. Her wealth was gobbled up by a few respectable robbers, and the masses were paupers and worse than paupers, for feeling that a deep injury had been inflicted upon them they were revengeful and desperate, becoming, as the revengeful and desperate usually become, criminals, that despised the law and even the rights of others.

There could be but one end to such a condition of things, and that was the utter ruin of the community. Rome went down in the midst of all her wealth and art and learning. She crumbled beneath the weight of her own greed and selfishness, and pauperism and misery, and any nation that does as Rome did will plunge into the abyss that Rome plunged, and with the destruction of the community, fortunes will be snuffed out like the blaze of a candle by the wind.

In all advocacy of reform in political, social and commercial systems, we should never for a moment lose sight of the importance of teaching practical agriculture. We would induce the farmer to adopt the best and most profitable methods in his farming operations; and while this is to some extent a necessary work in every section, it is a work greatly needed in our own midst. But we know how utterly useless it is to grow large crops and better stock if we are to be robbed of all that we produce. Hence our voice this time is for justice between man and man, and class and class; for legislation that will bear equally upon all industries and all men.

T. B. LINDSAY,
of Rockingham.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

An Excellent Letter from Charles W. Dabney, Jr. (C)

The following letter was received recently by a gentleman of this city, which we think contains a great deal of truth in relation to the subject of which it treats:

RALEIGH, May 9, 1887.

MY DEAR SIR—I am glad to read your letter. Everywhere, we see evidences that the people of the South are waking up to the great need of the hour—industrial education.

The higher education of the past tended largely to remove all intelligent men from industrial pursuits. The great argument which has been used persistently with Southern parents to induce them to educate their children, was, that this so-called education would raise them above the necessity of manual labor. Every high school and college and teacher in the land has drummed this idea into the minds of his patrons. So it was that literary education was held out, not as a preparation for work, but as an excuse for idleness. If you could get to the bottom of every poor young man's heart who is now seeking a little smattering of literary education at the high schools and colleges of North Carolina you would find that the chief motive actuating him is this desire to escape from the drudgery of labor. And I do not blame him. When he has been taught to despise the laborer, or has felt the hardship of unskilled labor, who will blame him for trying to escape it? Train the eye and hand, educate the laborer, put him to thinking, devising, contriving and studying to improve his work and you will make it both more interesting and more profitable to him.

This system is cursing our agriculture most of all. The smart boy must leave the farm. "Any fool is fit to farm," that is, to pursue the most remote, difficult, complicated and delicate of all professions—the one involving more different forces, natural and artificial, than any other calling. Then pray, as a gentleman said to me the other day, "what measure of ignorance is necessary to secure the most perfect success at farming?"

But I cannot pursue this farther; you do not need to be indoctrinated and will not tolerate a long letter.

Yours sincerely,

CHARLES W. DABNEY, JR.